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THE
HISTORY
OF
SANDFORD AND MERTON,

ALTERED
FROM THE ORIGINAL.

FOR THE AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION OF JUVENILE
MINDS.

EMBELLISHED WITH CUTS.

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THE
HISTORY
OF
SANDFORD & MERTON.

CHAP. I.

TOMMY MERTON, was the only son of a gentleman, who had large possessions in the island of Jamaica, but had come to reside, for some time in the western part of England.

Having thus briefly stated the parentage of Master Tommy, we shall proceed to particulars respecting his conduct, but shall not presume to make any animadversions at present, as the narrative will be best calculated to shew the bent of his disposition.

When any company came to visit at their house, he was sure to behave in such a manner as disgusted every one present. He must have the first cut of every thing at dinner; and at tea-time, the cups and saucers were frequently overset, by his eagerness to reach at a bit of toast, or any other favourite object he had in view.

When Tommy arrived in England, he was then six years of age, he had not learned so much as to write or read, and to complete his character, he was impatient, fretful, and proud.

A plain and honest farmer lived at no great distance from Mr. Merton's seat, who, like him, had only one son, but a few months older than Master Merton. His name was Harry Sandford. His obliging manners and affable temper made him beloved by every one, and so tender were his feelings, that he would destroy no animal whatever, saying, that God had made nothing in vain, and we had no right to put an end to the existence of any creature he had been pleased to make.

Such amiable accomplishments as these drew on him the attention of the clergyman of the parish, who was so much pleased with him, that he taught

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him to read and write, and was always happy when young Harry was with him. Little Harry was an obliging creature, and cheerfully submitted to do whatever he was bidden, and was so much attached to truth, that he abhorred telling a lie on any occasion.

Accident happened to bring him and Tommy Merton together. The latter was one morning



in the fields with his female attendant, amusing themselves with hunting butterflies, and collecting a nosegay from the wild beauties of the field.

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In the course of this amusement, a large snake rushed from his concealed abode, and entwined himself round one of the legs of poor Tommy. His female attendant fled as fast as she could to procure assistance, while the little enervated youth stood motionless, half dead with the fright.

Harry, who happened to be but at a little distance, and saw all that had passed, instantly ran to his assistance, heroically seized hold of the snake, and soon relieved Tommy from the disagreeable situation, in which he was so unluckily placed.

By this time, Mrs. Merton, who had heard the shrieks of the maid, ran, with half the family attending her, to the assistance of her darling son. She caught him in her arms, and almost smothered him with caresses. At last, however, she was inexpressibly happy to find he had received no injury, and then enquired of him in what manner he had got rid of the cruel animal. "Indeed, mamma, (said Tommy) had not that little boy come to my assistance, I fear the nasty creature would have bitten me."

"Pray, my dear, (said the lady) whose good boy are you, to whom I am so much obliged?"

"My name, (said he) is Harry Sandford." Mrs. Merton then insisted that he should go home and dine with them; but Harry endeavoured to excuse himself, saying his father would want him. The lady asked him who his father was, when he replied, "Farmer Sandford, madam, who lives at the bottom of yonder hill." The lady said, that she should in future consider him as her child; but Harry did not seem much to like the idea of giving up his own father and mother.

The matter, however, was soon settled, Mrs. Merton sent a servant to the farmer, and taking Harry by the hand, led him to her house, where every thing appeared quite new to him. He had never before seen such magnificent apartments, and yet did not seem to shew many marks of wonder or surprise. When seated at table, Harry, to the astonishment of every one, appeared neither pleased nor surprised at the novelty of the scene, nor at the delicacy of the provisions.

Dinner being over, the lady presented Harry with a large glass of wine, which he thanked her for, but begged to be excused drinking it, saying that his master, Mr. Barlow, told him, that he

should never eat but when he was hungry, nor drink but when he was dry; that he should accustom himself to eat and drink those things only which are easily to be procured, as otherwise he might grow peevish and fretful when he could not get them.

Mr. Merton observed to his lady, that he wished Mr. Barlow would take their Tommy under his care, as he grew a great boy, and it was time he should learn something. Mr. Merton then asked his son, if he should like to be a philosopher; to which he replied, that he did not know what a philosopher was, but he should like to be a king,



and wear a crown ; because kings having many persons to wait on them, have no occasion to do any thing themselves, and live in so much grandeur.

Mrs. Merton caught Tommy in her arms, and after having given him a thousand kisses for so witty and sensible an answer, asked Harry how he should like to be a king. The little fellow replied, that he did not know what a king was, but should be very happy, when he was grown big enough, to work at the plow, and get his own bread.

The lady observed, in a whisper to her husband, what a difference there was between the children of gentlefolks and those of poor people. Mr. Merton, however, was a very sensible man, and chose rather to be silent than offend his lady, though he was far from being of her opinion.

Mrs. Merton then asked Harry if he should like to be rich ; and, on the honest little fellow's answering in the negative, she requested of him to know, with a smile of contempt, why he preferred poverty to riches.

" For this reason, madam, (replied Harry) because I know only one rich man, and that is

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"Squire Chace, who lives just by us. He rides over fields of ripe corn, demolishes hedges, destroys other people's dogs, and does many injuries to the poor, and all this merely because he says he is rich.

Mrs. Merton then asked Harry if he should not like to be dressed in fine laced clothes, and to have a coach to carry him wherever he pleased.

"As to clothes, madam, (replied Harry) one coat is as good as another, so it does but keep one warm, and so long as I can walk where I



chuse, I shall have no occasion for a coach to carry me." The lady viewed Harry with a coun-

tenance mixed with astonishment and contempt, but forbore asking him any further questions.

When Harry returned home in the evening to his parents, they asked him how he liked what he had seen at the great house. Harry replied, that they had all been very civil to him, but that he would much rather have been at home. After dinner was over, (said he) I was obliged to sit two hours on my seat, as if I had been nailed to it, while the lady asked me how I should like to be a king, to be rich, and such like unmeaning questions.

After Harry was gone, a long conversation took place between Mr. Merton and his lady. The lady preferred what she called the polite notions of Tommy to the honest rusticity of Harry; but the gentleman was of a different opinion, and preferred sincerity and honesty to the empty parade of greatness.

This conversation concluded with an agreement between Mr. Merton and his wife, that their son Tommy should be put under the care of the same master as Harry. Mr. Barlow was accordingly invited the next Sunday to dinner, when Mr. Merton introduced the subject, and Tommy's

parents delivered him into the hands of this good man, to tutor him as he thought best.

CHAP. II.

WE have now brought Tommy to the vicarage, which was about two miles from his father's house, to undergo a very material change in his temper and dispositions. The next morning, after breakfast, Mr. Barlow conducted him and Harry into the garden. He then took a spade himself, gave a hoe to Harry, and they both began their work. Tommy was invited to join them in their labour, and Mr. Barlow promised to give him a little piece of ground to himself, if he would undertake the cultivation of it; but he rejected with contempt an offer which, he thought, was more proper to be made to a plough-boy than to a young gentleman of his fortune.

Mr. Barlow told Tommy he might do as he liked, and, after he and Harry had worked about two hours, they left off, and went into a pleasant summer-house, where they sat down. Here Mr. Barlow, taking a plateful of fine cherries out of a

cup-board, divided them between himself and Harry: they eat them up without offering a single one to Tommy, who undoubtedly expected to have his share of them.

This put the little youth into a sullen state, which at last found vent in tears, and he wandered about the garden, equally surprised and vexed, on finding himself in a place where no one concerned themselves whether he was pleased or not.

As soon as the cherries were demolished, Harry proposed to read a lesson. To this Mr. Barlow agreed, and told Harry to take care that he read slowly and distinctly, and to pronounce his words properly. This good boy then took up his book, and read the story of the Little Twins.

The lesson being finished, Mr. Barlow and Harry took a walk into the fields, and the latter was very inquisitive in asking the names of all the shrubs and plants they met with.

On their arrival at home to dinner, Tommy, who had been all this time rambling in the garden in a solitary manner, made his appearance, and being very hungry, was going to sit down at the table with the rest; but Mr. Barlow observed to him, that as he was too much of a gentleman to

think of working, he must go without victuals, as it was not reasonable that the industrious should work for the idle.

Tommy now withdrew into a corner, crying most bitterly; but these were rather tears of grief than obstinacy, as he found nobody seemed inclined to humour his temper. Harry, however, was very unhappy to see his friend in so humiliating a situation, and begged Mr. Barlow that he might give him a part of his dinner. Having obtained permission to do so, he got up, went to Tommy, and gave him the whole of it, when the young gentleman took it, thanked him for it, and eat it all up. Here Mr. Barlow observed, though gentlemen are above working for themselves, they will eat the bread that others earn by the sweat of their brow. This threw Tommy again into tears.

Mr. Barlow and Harry went the next morning to work as usual, when Tommy came to them, and desired that he also might have a hoe. Mr. Barlow instantly gave him one, and instructed him how to use it, so that, in a short time, he became a good workman, and pursued his labour with pleasure.

Their work being finished for that day, they all

withdrew to the summer-house, and the joy of Tommy was inexpressible, when he found he was to have his share of the fruit. When the fruit was demolished, Mr. Barlow took up a book, and



asked Tommy to read them a story ; but he hanging down his head, said he had not yet learned to read. Mr. Barlow, after expressing his sorrow for the young gentleman's ignorance, desired Harry to read the following story of *The Gentleman and the Basket-maker*.

“ In a distant part of the world lived a rich man, who had a magnificent house, and spent all his time in the luxurious enjoyments of eating, drinking, gaming, and every kind of pleasure.



“ At no great distance from this rich person's house, lived a poor, honest, industrious man, who made shift to maintain himself by making baskets out of dried reeds, which grew in a swamp near his habitation. So small was his income, that his food was very coarse, and his bed was nothing better than spare rushes. Notwithstanding this, he was happy and contented, and bore a very re-

spectable character. The rich man, on the contrary, was a great sluggard and glutton, and even detested by his own servants.

“As this tyrant frequently passed by the habitation of the poor basket-maker, he constantly observed, that the honest fellow was always singing and merry at his work. What, said he to himself, shall such a gentleman as I be always melancholy and gloomy, while such a reptile as this is gay and cheerful?”

“The invidious and wicked reflection was strengthened by the repetition of the poor man’s happiness; he therefore determined to make him as miserable as himself, and with that view ordered his servant one night to set fire to the rushes that surrounded the poor man’s house. The whole marsh was soon in a flame, which extended to the cottage of the basket-maker, who was forced to save his life by running out with only his shirt on his back.

“Sorrowful indeed was the situation of this poor creature, who found himself totally deprived of the means of procuring subsistence, by the wicked cruelty of a rich man, whom he had never

offended. Naked and miserable as he was, he set out barefooted to tell his melancholy tale to the governor of the province. He instantly sent for the rich tyrant, and the crime was clearly proved against him.

“As to you, (addressing himself to the poor man) it must be a matter of indifference to what part you go, since your honesty and industry will procure you a livelihood any where.



“The governor then gave orders to put them both on board a ship and to carry them to a remote country, inhabited by a rude and savage kind of men, who were strangers to riches, and lived in huts. The sailors having put them on shore, there left them, when they were presently

surrounded by the inhabitants. The situation of the rich man was now terrible, and he began to cry and wring his hands in the most abject manner; while the poor man seemed perfectly at ease, well knowing his labour would procure him his bread.

“ The natives made them understand by signs that they would not hurt them, but would employ them in carrying wood. They were then conducted to a distant wood, and shewed several logs, which they were ordered to carry to the cabins of the natives. They instantly set about their business, when the strength and activity of the poor man soon enabled him to complete his business, before the rich man had half finished his.

“ The natives, seeing the difference between the abilities of these two men, were very much prepossessed in favour of the basket-maker, who they supposed would be very useful to them.

“ Experience soon taught the rich man on what false pretensions he had before valued himself, and how much superior to him was a plain, honest, labouring man.

“ It may not be amiss to observe, that thus it

generally fares with pride; and true indeed is the golden saying, that "a haughty spirit goes before a fall."

"They now released the basket-maker from his former drudgery, brought him their choicest provisions, and built him a house to dwell in.--



As to the gentleman, who had neither abilities to do any thing pleasing, nor strength to labour, they made him the basket-maker's servant, and employed him in cutting reeds for his use. So effectually was the pride of the rich man mortified!

"Several months had elapsed in this manner, when the governor of their native country sent for them, and ordered them to be brought before him. As soon as they appeared, he cast a stern and severe look on the gentleman, and thus addressed him :

"I have now taught you, what a feeble, helpless, and contemptible creature you are, and how inferior you are to the person you insulted. Were I to punish you as you deserve, I should strip you of all your riches, as you wantonly deprived this man of the little all he possessed in this world ; but I will act more humanely than you did, and therefore sentence you to give one half of your possessions to this poor injured man.

"The basket maker instantly thanked the governor for his goodness, but said that all he required was to be put in the same condition he formerly enjoyed, and thereby be enabled to get his bread.

"The noble generosity of the basket-maker astonished the rich man, of whom misfortunes had made a different creature. He ever after treated the poor man as his friend, and was a benefactor to the distressed all the rest of his life."

As soon as the story was ended, Tommy allowed it was very entertaining; but said, had he been in the basket maker's place he would have accepted of the governor's decree, and have taken one half of the gentleman's fortune. But Harry said he would have done no such thing, lest it should make him as proud, as idle, and as wicked as the other. Mr. Barlow and the two young folks then went in to dinner.

CHAP. III.

FROM this time, Mr. Barlow and his two pupils worked every morning in the garden, and retired after their labour to the summer-house, where they refreshed themselves before dinner.--- By degrees, Tommy began to lament that he could not read, and at last spoke privately to Harry on the occasion, who very generously proposed to learn him. He accordingly began with teaching him the alphabet, which he learned in the course of a day. He then proceeded to spelling, and in a little time read tolerably well. All this

was to be done without Mr. Barlow knowing any thing of the matter, as Tommy wished to surprise him by reading him a lesson unexpectedly. He then pursued his study with very great attention.

One Sunday, being all three assembled to go to Church, Tommy said, that, if Mr. Barlow



would give him permission, he would try to read a Prayer Book. Mr. Barlow replied, that he should have no objection, but he should as soon expect to see him fly. Tommy, however, with

a smile of confidence and self-approbation told Mr. Barlow that he hoped to remove so unfavourable an opinion, by convincing him that some improvement had taken place. He then took up the Prayer Book, and very distinctly read the Lord's Prayer.

Having finished, "I clearly see (said Mr. Barlow) that if young gentlemen will but take pains, they may do well as others,". He rejoiced to find that Tommy had made so useful an acquisition as that of learning to read. "I have no doubt, (continued Mr. Barlow that Tommy will one day become a sensible man, and will hereafter be able to teach others."

Tommy was highly pleased with these praises, and determined to make himself as clever as other people. Indeed, he was naturally of a good disposition, though the talents he possessed had been prevented from appearing by the bad habits of a wrong education. He was very passionate, and thought every one obliged to obey him who was not so finely dressed as himself. This opinion led him into errors, attended with disagreeable consequences, of which the following is an instance.

Tommy one day happened to strike a ball with his bat into an adjoining field, in which a little ragged boy was walking. Tommy called to the boy in a very commanding tone to throw the ball over, but he took no notice of what was said to him. Tommy then called out in a more angry tone than before, and asked the boy if he were deaf. "No, (replied the boy) I am not deaf." This enraged the young gentleman still more, and he threatened the boy, that, if he did not immediately throw the ball over, he would come into the field and thrash him within an inch of his life. The boy then set up a loud laugh, which so provoked Tommy, that he clambered over the hedge, with an intent to leap into the field; but his foot happening to slip, down he went into a ditch full of mud and water. There Tommy lay tumbling about for some time, in vain attempting to get out. His fine waistcoat was totally spoiled, his white stockings had assumed another colour, and his breeches were filled with muddy water.--- In struggling to get out, he first lost one shoe and buckle, and then the other; and, to complete his misfortunes, his laced hat fell into the most muddy part, and sunk to the bottom.

At last, the little ragged boy took pity on him, and helped him out, and Tommy was so vexed and ashamed, that he was not able to say a word, but set off for home. Mr. Barlow seeing him in such a plight, was afraid he might have received some injury; but, on hearing the whole of the business, he could not help smiling, advising Tommy to be more careful in future how he threatened others with punishment, and told him the only way to expect being obliged, was to use civil words and meek behaviour.

CHAP. IV.

MASTER MERTON now began to display an obliging and generous disposition, for as he was the following day going at some distance from Mr. Barlow's, he saw two gentlemen, who seemed to him to be stranger's; he went up to them, and asked them if they were at a loss for any thing? One of them replied, and said, he

would be obliged to him if he would direct them the nearest road to a house at the back of an ad-



jacent hill. Tommy with much good humour and politeness, directed them, and offered to conduct them there if they thought it needful.

The gentlemen, pleased with Tommy's willingness to oblige, told him there was no occasion, and proceeded to the house agreeably to his direction.

Some few days after, as Tommy was walking over the fields, he saw a poor boy gathering blackberries. Tommy instantly ran up to him, and asked him, if he had no better cloaths than those on his back, which hung all in rags. "No, sir, replied the poor boy, these are my best. I have brothers and sisters, who are as ragged as myself; but what is worse, we are all half starved!"

On Tommy's asking what could be the cause of that, the poor boy replied, "that his father was ill of a fever, and was unable to work; and that his mammy told him, they must all starve, unless God Almighty took pity on them." Tommy, without making any reply, ran home as fast as he could, and presently returned with a loaf of bread, and a suit of his plainest cloaths. "Here, poor boy, said he, you behaved very kindly to me, and therefore I give you these. I am a gentleman, and shall not miss them." The boy received this present with every mark of gratitude,

and Tommy turned from him without saying a word more, highly delighted with his own feelings on this act of humanity.

The next morning early, Tommy desired Harry to accompany him to an old cloaths shop in a neighbouring village. On their arrival there, Tommy laid out all his money, which amounted to fifteen shillings and six-pence, in buying clothes for the poor ragged family.

They then walked on, conversing together, till they arrived at the cottage of the poor man, whom they found much better, owing to some medicines Mr. Barlow had given him the preceding night. Tommy then asked for the little boy, and, as soon as he appeared, told him, that he had brought some clothes for him and the rest of the little family. The sincere blessings of the good woman and her husband were so affecting, that Tommy and his companion could not help shedding tears of joy. As they were returning home, the young gentleman observed, that he had never before spent money with so much satisfaction as on this occasion: and, that, for the time to come, he would save up all the money that was given him, and apply it to these charitable purposes,

instead of spending it in the purchase of foolish baubles.

On their return home, Tommy acquainted Mr. and Mrs. Barlow with what he had done, which met with the hearty applause of them both. In the evening, Mrs. Barlow, in return for Tommy's goodness, read the following story of the *The Two Brothers*.



" Among the numerous adventurers who went to South America, in pursuit of gold and silver, was a Spaniard, whose name was Pizarro, and

who like others, was anxious to try his fortune.--- As he had a great affection for his elder brother, he communicated to him his design, and earnestly entreated him to go along with him, promising to give an equal share of whatever the expedition should produce.



“ His brother, whose name was Alouzo, was a man of good understanding and easy temper. He did not much like the proposed expedition;

and endeavoured to persuade Pizarro to abandon it, representing to him the certain dangers he would have to encounter, and the great uncertainty of success. However, perceiving that all arguments were in vain, he consented to accompany him, declaring, at the same time, that he wanted no part of the riches he might procure, and only asked to have a few servants and his baggage taken on board the ship with him. Pizarro then disposed of all his effects, purchased a vessel, and embarked with several other adventurers, who had no doubt of making immense fortunes. Alonzo, on the other hand, took with him only a few plows, harrows, and other implements of husbandry; together with some corn, and seeds of different sorts of vegetables. Though this conduct appeared very strange to Pizarro, yet he took no notice of it to his brother, wishing to avoid the least appearance of altercation.

“ A prosperous gale wafted them across the Atlantic, when they put into the last port they intended to stop at, till they could reach the land of gold and silver. Here Pizarro purchased several more implements used in digging for, melting, and refining, the gold he doubted not of

finding, and also of procuring more labourers to assist him in the work. On the other hand, Alonzo purchased only a few sheep, and four oxen properly harnessed for ploughing.

" From hence they set sail, and arrived safe at the destined port. Alonzo then acquainted his brother, that as his intentions were only to accompany and assist him in the voyage, he should stay near the borders of the sea with his servants and cattle, while he traversed the country in search of gold; and, as soon as he had procured as much as he wanted, he should be ready to accompany him back to Spain, whenever he should return to the coast.

" Pizarro set out immediately, and, though he said nothing to his brother, he could not help expressing his contempt of him to his companions. " I have always been accustomed, (said he to his followers) to consider my brother as a man of sense; but I now perceive my mistake. He intends to amuse himself with his sheep and oxen, as if he were actually on his own farm in Spain. We, however, know better than to waste our time in that manner. We, in a short time, shall

enrich ourselves for the rest of our lives." His speech was universally applauded, excepting by one Spaniard, who, as he marched on, shook his head, and told Pizarro, that he probably might not find this brother so great a fool as he imagined.

" They continued their journey into the country for several days, and met with numberless obstacles, such as being obliged to cross rivers, to ascend craggy mountains, and penetrate almost impervious forests; sometimes scorched with the intense heat of the sun, and then soaked by the violent rains that fell. In spite of all difficulties, they pursued their search for gold, and luckily at last came to a place where they found it in tolerable quantities. Success inspired them with courage, and they continued their labours on the spot till their provisions were all expended. Though they gained gold, they suffered much from hunger, but contented themselves with living on such roots and berries as the earth spontaneously produced. Even this supply at last failed them, and after losing several of their company by famine and hardships, the rest with difficulty crawled back to the place where they had left Alonzo, carrying with them that pernicious gold for which

they had exposed themselves to the dangers of death in so many miserable shapes.

“ In the mean time, Alonzo was employing himself in a far more useful manner. His knowledge in husbandry pointed out to him a spot of



considerable extent and fruitful soil, which he ploughed up by the assistance of his servants and the oxen he had brought with him. A plentiful harvest rewarded his toils.

“ Alonzo received his brother Pizarro, on his return, with the utmost respect, and enquired what success he had met with. Pizarro then in-

formed him of the vast quantity of gold they had found, but that several of his comrades had perished, and that those who remained were in a starving condition. He immediately requested his brother to give him something to eat, as he had tasted no other food for two days than the roots and barks of trees.

"To this request Alonzo very coolly replied, that his brother should remember, on their departure from Europe, that they had agreed not to interfere with each other; and that, as he had relinquished all pretensions to the gold they might discover, they could have a right to any part of the produce of his labour. "If you think proper, (added Alonzo) to exchange some of your gold for provisions, I shall then be ready to accommodate you.

"However unkind Pizarro thought this behaviour of his brother, he and his companions, being in a starving condition, were obliged to submit to his demands. Alonzo placed so high a value on his provisions, that he soon became master of all the gold they had collected, merely to procure them articles of subsistence. Alonzo then proposed to his brother to embark for Europe, as the

vessel, in which they had arrived at America was still in good condition, and the winds favourable.

“Pizarro sternly replied, that since he had stripped him of all the wealth he had acquired, and treated him so unbrotherly, he might return without him. As to himself, he said he would remain upon that desert shore, and there end his life.



“Alonzo, instead of resenting this language, shook his brother by the hand, and thus addressed him:

“Is it possible, that my dear brother could believe that I meant to deprive him of the gold he

has dearly bought? May all the gold in the universe perish; rather than that I should treat you in such a manner! I perceived your impetuous desire for riches, and I have taken this method to draw you from your attachment to them. My prudence and industry appeared to you as chimerical, since you imagined that nothing can be wanting to him who possesses riches; but you have now learned, that all the gold you had found



would not have prevented you and your followers from starving, had not my industry and foresight prevented it. I am willing to flatter myself, that

you will be wiser for the future ; and, therefore, take back your gold, and make proper use of it for the time to come.

“ This unexpected generosity of Alonzo, filled Pizarro with astonishment and gratitude, and he was, for the first time, obliged to confess, that industry and prudence were preferable to gold. They then embarked for Europe, and, after an easy passage, arrived safe in Spain. Pizarro, during the voyage, often entreated his brother to accept of one half of the gold, which Alonzo invincibly refused, saying, that he who can raise what is sufficient for the supply of his natural wants, stands in no need of the assistance of gold.”

CHAP. V.

TOMMY and Harry went the next day into the garden to sow some wheat, which Harry had brought with him from his father's, on a piece of ground which Tommy had dug and prepared for the purpose. After they had finished their

labour, they returned into the house, when Mr. Barlow desired Tommy to read the following History of the Good-natured Little Boy, which he accordingly did with a very clear and distinct voice.

“ One morning, a little boy set out from his own home to go to a village at a small distance, and took with him a basket of provisions sufficient to serve him the whole day. In the course of his



journey, a half starved dog came up to him wagging his tail, and seemingly to implore his compassion. The little boy at first took no notice of

him: but seeing the dog still follow him, and observing how lean and meagre he looked, he gave him part of his victuals, though he had no more than that what he should want for himself.

“ The little boy then pursued his journey, the dog still attending him, and fawning upon him with gratitude and affection. Presently he saw a poor old horse lying on the ground, and groaning bitterly. He went up to him, and perceived he was in a starving condition. Though he was afraid of being benighted before he should back, he went and gathered some grass, which he put to the horse's mouth, who began to eat it in such a manner as plainly shewed, that hunger was the principal cause of his disorder. He then fetched some water to him in his hat, which the animal having drank up very heartily, seemed to be so much refreshed, that it soon got on its legs, and began grazing.

“ He had not got a great way from hence, when he met with a poor sailor who had been shipwrecked. The poor sailor begged charity of the little boy, saying he had neither victuals nor money, and had not tasted meat for two days and two nights, and was almost famished. —

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The tender hearted child immediately gave him all the victuals he had left, telling the poor shipwrecked sailor he had nothing else to give him.



“ He then continued his journey, and presently saw a poor man sitting beneath the friendly shade of an old tree. The little boy asked him why he did not get up, and pursue his journey, for day-light would soon be gone. To this the poor man replied, that with him it was never day-light, for he was born blind ; and tho’ he had travelled this self-same road very often, yet by some means or other he had now lost himself. The little boy

then took hold of one end of his stick, and led him to the road, from which he had unfortunately strayed. The blind man gave him a thousand blessings. The little boy again resumed his journey, and, arriving at the place he was sent to, did his business, and set out for his home with all possible speed.

“ He had not got far on his return before night commenced, which proved exceedingly dark, neither moon nor stars making their appearance. The poor boy, missing his way, turned down a lane, which brought him into a wood, where he lost himself, and was unable to proceed. Overcome with fatigue and hunger, he sat himself down upon the ground, crying bitterly. At last, the little dog, who had never left him, came to him, wagging his tail, and holding something in his mouth. He soon found it was a handkerchief nicely pinned together, which somebody had probably dropped, and the dog had picked up. The contents of it, which were bread and meat, he eat most heartily, and then found himself much refreshed. Thus the poor dog, to him the little boy had given a breakfast, provided him with a supper.

"He again attempted to make his way through the wood, which he at last effected with difficulty, and then proceeded towards his own dwelling.

"He had not, however, gone a great way, before he met with another danger to encounter. As he was passing through a solitary lane, two men rushed out upon him, and were preparing to strip him of his cloaths, when the little dog bit the leg of one of the men so violently, that he left the little boy to pursue the dog who ran howling and barking. In this critical moment a voice was heard crying out, "There the villains are; knock them down!" This frightened the thieves so much that they instantly decamped.

"The little boy then saw it was the sailor he had relieved in the morning, who was accompanied by the blind man, whom he had conducted into the road. "Thank God, my little dear (said the sailor) I have now been able to return your kindness to me in the morning. As I was sitting by the hedge-side I heard these two fellows lay the plan of robbing you; and I persuaded this blind man to go with me to the spot where they intended to attack you."

"The little youth thanked them kindly, and

from what had passed that day, was fully convinced, that a good action never goes unrewarded. He then invited them home to his father's house, where they were kindly entertained for the night, and he took care of his favourite dog as long as he lived."

Tommy expressed great satisfaction at this narrative. Mr. Barlow told him, that since he had been so well pleased, Harry shall read him the adventures of an Ill-natured Boy, and he accordingly proceeded as follows :

" It is a great misfortune for children to have bad parents, who take no care of them, and such was the unhappy lot of a little youth who might have been happier and better under a good parent. He drew on himself the name of the Ill-natured boy, and, as he was quarrelsome, he became disagreeable to every one. This little boy had a dog that in temper resembled himself, as he was always barking at the heels of every horse, and worrying every sheep he met with.

" One holiday, his father got up early in the morning, in order to go to the ale-house, and consume the day in drunkenness and riot. Before he went out, he gave his son some provisions and

sixpence, telling him that he might amuse himself that day as he liked. The boy was very much pleased with this liberty, and, taking with him his dog Tiger, he set out on his ramble.

“ He had not gone far, before he met a lad with a flock of sheep, which the youth wished to drive through a gate into a field adjoining to the road. The little shepherd begged of him to keep off his dog that he might not frighten his sheep; but, instead of complying with so reasonable a request, he ordered his dog to seize them. Tiger thus encouraged, sprung into the middle of the flock, when the affrighted sheep dispersed in different directions. The boy enjoyed this inhuman sport; but Tiger happened to attack an old ram, who, having more courage than the rest, handled him very roughly, and obliged him at last to run away howling. The little shepherd, highly irritated at this unworthy treatment, gave the ill-natured boy such a blow on the temples as almost brought him to the ground. As he was naturally a coward, he walked off crying, being sick of the business.

“ He had hardly recovered from the smart the blow had occasioned, than he began to think of

fresh mischief. He saw a young girl (who had been at the cow) giving a poor woman a drink of



milk out of her jug. The wicked boy went up to them, and, seizing hold of it, he feigned to make a stumble, gave the girl a push, overturned the milk upon her, and then ran away laughing.

“He presently afterwards came to a green, where several boys were playing, and, on his asking to be permitted to make one of them, they readily consented. His mischievous disposition was still at work, and taking an opportunity when

the ball came to him; instead of throwing it the right way, he struck it into a deep muddy ditch. The little boys ran in a hurry to find it, and as they were standing one behind the other on the brink, he gave the boy furthest behind a violent push, and he pressing on the rest, they all tumbled into the ditch together. As soon as they got out, they were preparing to give him a sound drubbing; but he got Tiger between his legs, whom he clapped on his sides, and on the dog's shewing his teeth and grinning, they were afraid to proceed. Thus he again escaped without punishment.

“ He soon afterwards met with a jack-ass quietly feeding in a ditch, and he determined to have, as he called it, some fun with the animal. He accordingly cut a large bunch of thorns, which he contrived to fix to the poor beast's tail, and then setting Tiger at him, he was greatly diverted with the fright and agony of the animal. Tiger, however, paid dear for his master's sport; for, as he was biting the animal's heels, he received so violent a kick as laid him dead on the spot. As this sad boy had no feelings of compassion, he did not care much for the fate of his dog.

whom he left with the utmost unconcern, and then sat down to regale himself.

“ He had not been long in that situation, when a poor blind man came groping his way with a couple of sticks. Though this man was a true object of pity and compassion, yet the wicked little boy was determined to play him a trick. He asked the blind man if he would eat a bit with him, and on his accepting his offer, he got up to lead the man to the place where he sat; but instead of so doing, he placed him on a parcel of wet dung. He then took a bit of meat between his fingers to put in the blind man’s mouth; but he made a snap at the boy’s finger’s; and catching them between his teeth, made him roar most lustily. After the blind man had put him to a great deal of pain, he let his finger’s loose, advising him never more to be guilty of such improper conduct.

[Here Mr. Barlow desired Harry to stop a little, till he made a particular observation: “ Don’t you think, Tommy, this conduct was very wicked?” “ Indeed, Sir, replied Harry, it hurts me much to find that any boy could behave in such

an unfeeling manner." "Let me hope then that such a crime as this will never be imputed to either of you, said Mr. Barlow, for an insult offered to any one is bad, but ten times more so when it is given to those who cannot assist themselves.---Now, Harry, proceed."]

"He had not gone much farther before he saw a poor man asking charity of a Lady, who gave him a few pence. He went up to him, and told him that he would not give him pence, but silver, then pulling out his sixpence, threw it on the ground, and bid him take it up; but, as the poor man was stooping for the purpose, he gave him a push, and the beggar fell upon his face, when he snatched up the sixpence, and ran away laughing.

"His career of wickedness was, however, now at an end; for, observing two men coming up to the beggar, he ran away as fast as he could over several fields. At last he came to a farmer's orchard, and, as he was clambering over the fence, a large dog seized him. Being frightened, he roared out lustily, which brought out the farmer, who called off his dog, but seized hold of the boy, saying, "So, my lad, I have caught you at

last ! You thought you might steal my apples when you pleased ; but you are mistaken, and you shall now suffer for all." So saying, the farmer did not let him go till he had given him a severe whipping.

" He now began to be sensible, that punishment does not fail at last to overtake the wicked ; but the measure of his misfortunes was not yet compleated. As he jumped down from a stile, he found himself in the hands of the lame beggar he had thrown on his face. He cried and begged pardon, but the lame man give him a severe thrashing before he let him depart.

" He gain pursued his journey, and soon found himself surrounded by the boys he had so ill used in the morning. As soon as they saw him without his dog, they set up a shout, and began to torment him different ways. Some pulled his hair, some pelted him with dirt, and others snapped their handkerchiefs at his legs. He endeavoured in vain to make his escape. At last, however, he happened to see the jack-ass he had tormented in the morning, when he sprung upon his back, hoping by that means to escape. The ass instantly galloped away with him, and soon bore

him from his enemies ; but, the animal still keeping his pace, in spite of the efforts of the ill-natured Boy to prevent him, on a sudden stopped short at the door of a cottage, and began kicking and prancing with such violence, that he threw the little boy from his back, and bruised his leg. His cries brought out the family, and among them the young girl whose milk he had spilled. However, they took him in, and treated him humanely. He now determined, should he recover from this accident, he would in future study to do good, and injure no person or animal any more."

Tommy was vastly pleased with this story, as it shewed the difference between being good and naughty. Every one loved and assisted the little good-natured boy, but every one punished and despised the other.

CHAP. VI.

TOMMY and Harry having taken it into their heads, that they would build them a house at the bottom of the garden, Mr. Barlow not

only gave his consent, but went into the copse, to cut down poles proper for the purpose. These poles, which were about as thick as a man's wrist, and about eight feet long, he brought to a point at one end, in order to run into the ground. So eager were the two little boys at their business, that they soon conveyed all the poles to the bottom of the garden, and Tommy seemed to have entirely forgotten that he was a gentleman.

• Harry then took the states, and drove them in to the ground, at the distance of about a foot, and thus he enclosed a piece of land, about ten feet long and eight feet wide. This being done, they gathered up the brush wood they had cut off, and interwove it between the poles, so as to form a kind of fence.

A few days after, they went to look at the house they had begun building, when they found that a hurricane, which had happened the preceding night, had levelled every stick with the earth. Tommy shook his head, but Harry only observed, that they had not built it strong enough, and that they must drive their posts further into the ground. They therefore set about repairing

it, and in the course of a few days completed the whole, so as to make it capable of affording them shelter from the severest shower.

The winter had now set in with its usual severity, so that the two youths were at present no longer able to pursue their labours in the garden; but they now and then took a walk in the air.--- One day, when the snow which had fallen was a good deal gone off, Tommy and Harry took their usual walk. They were so deep in conversation, that they wandered much further than they intended, and got into some paths with which they were not well acquainted. They therefore thought it prudent to return as fast as possible.

It unfortunately happened, that, in passing through a wood, they wandered from the right path, and could not tell where they were. To add to their distress, the wind from the north began to blow with great fury, and so violent a fall of snow came on as obliged them to take shelter. The hollow of an aged oak afforded them a comfortable asylum, and they exerted all their youthful abilities to keep themselves warm.

Tommy had never before experienced hardships of this nature, and, for some time, shewed

an heroic courage ; but hunger and fear at last got the better of him, when, with tears in his eyes, he asked Harry what they should do. " Why, (replied Harry with great courage) we must stay here till the storm is over, and then endeavour to get home."

After remaining some time in the hollow of the tree, the storm greatly abated, when they began



their march through the snow, which had completely covered every track, and what was worst of all, the day began to close. Harry had great

difficulty to persuade his companion, who was up to his knees in snow every step he took, to pursue his march.

At length, however, they came to some lighted embers, which probably some labourers had just quitted. Harry then got together all the dry pieces of wood he could find, and placing them on the embers, they soon caught fire, which afforded them a comfortable warmth. Tommy, as they were warming themselves, observed to Harry, that it was a terrible thing to be cold and hungry, and more so to a gentleman than to a common person.

Harry replied, that what he had felt from the storm might be disagreeable to a gentleman, but it was nothing more than common to a country farming people, who were of more use to the community than gentlemen, who were ready to die under the least degree of fatigue. For his part, he thought it much better to be a plain country-man than a fine laced gentleman.

While they were conversing together on such subjects as these, a little boy came along singing, with a bundle of sticks on his shoulder, whom Harry happened to know. In fact, he was the

very little ragged boy to whom Tommy had given the cloaths in the summer. Harry instantly spoke to him, and desired him to shew them the way out of the wood, which he readily consented to, but advised them first to go to his father's house, and, while they warmed themselves, they would send to Mr. Barlow to acquaint him where they were. Tommy joyfully accepted the offer, and the little boy led them to his father's cottage.

As soon as they arrived there, they found the old man sitting by the fire, who knew them again, gave them a hearty welcome, and threw a large faggot on the fire to give them a comfortable warm. The old woman said she had not any thing in the house worth asking Tommy to eat, as she had nothing better than brown bread & bacon. The two youths, having eat nothing since the morning, made a most hearty meal of what she had, while the honest farmer went to acquaint Mr. Barlow of the safety of his pupils, which gave infinite satisfaction to that reverend gentleman, as he had dispatched people every where in pursuit of them.

CHAP. VII.

TOMMY, during his residence with Mr. Barlow, had lost a great part of his West-Indian pride; and had contracted many acquaintances among poor families. In imitation of Mr. Barlow he went about from house to house, enquiring after the health and welfare of their families, and the returns of civility and gratitude he met with amply rewarded his tenderness and humanity. He began to reflect on every thing he heard, and to imitate whatever he saw that appeared laudable and praise worthy.

Mr. Barlow had a large Newfoundland dog, which was exceedingly good-natured, and very fond of the water. Tommy had by this time learned to make even animals respect him, and he and Caesar were upon exceeding good terms. He would sometimes divert himself with throwing things into the water, which the dog would instantly fetch in his mouth, and lay down at his feet; when he would stroke and pat him by way of encouragement.

Tommy had heard Mr. Barlow give an account in what manner the Kamschatkan dogs drew

their sledges, and he determined to make an experiment of that nature. Being one day perfectly disengaged from business, he furnished himself with some rope, and a kitchen chair, which he intended to make use of instead of a sledge. He then coaxed Cæsar into a large yard behind the house, and placing the chair flat upon the ground he fastened the dog to it, with great care, and no small share of ingenuity. Cæsar, however, did not understand being harnessed, and was ignorant of the part he was to act. At last Tommy mounted his seat triumphantly, with a whip in his hand, and began his career.

A number of the neighbouring little boys gathered round the young gentleman, which made him the more anxious to distinguish himself. Tommy began to make use of those expressions to his dog, which he had heard coachmen apply to their horses, and smacked his whip with great consequence. Cæsar, who had not been used to this kind of language, grew rather impatient, and shewed his dislike to his present situation, by endeavouring to get rid of his business. This drew on Tommy the laugh of the spectators, which made him more eager to perform his exploit with

honour, and, after having tried many experiments with his steed, and being a little angry with him, he applied a pretty severe lash to his hinder parts. Cæsar was very angry at this, and instantly set off at full speed, dragging the chair, with the driver upon it, at a prodigious rate.

Tommy now looked about him with a triumphant air, and maintained his seat with great firmness. Unfortunately, however, at no great distance was a large horse pond, which gradually shelved to the depth of three or four feet. The affrighted Cæsar ran thither, in hopes of getting rid of his tormentor; while Tommy in vain endeavoured to pacify and restrain his steed. Cæsar, without paying any regard to his driver, precipitately rushed into the pond, and carried both carriage and driver into the middle of it. The boys who were spectators, now received fresh matter of diversion; and, notwithstanding their respect for Tommy, they could not help uttering loud shouts of derision. The unmannerly exultations of the spectators very much discomposed our little hero; but his misfortunes had not yet reached their summit. Cæsar, by floundering about in the pond, overturned the car, and threw

poor Tommy into the water, wherein he struggled with the greatest difficulty and hardship to get out.

A sudden thaw having commenced the day before, occasioned the pond to be a mixture of ice and water, and mud and mire. Such was the appearance of poor Tommy when he had got out of the pond, that the whole troop of spectators, burst into redoubled peals, which irritated the unfortunate hero to a violent degree of rage. As soon as he had struggled to shore, forgetting the situation he was in, he fell upon the boys with great fury, and so liberally dealt his blows on every side, that he put them all to flight.

While Tommy was pursuing the vanquished about the yard, the noise brought Mr. Barlow to the door, who could hardly help laughing at the sorrowful figure of his pupil. At last, having heard his preceptor's voice, he respectfully approached him, and related every thing that happened. Mr. Barlow immediately led him into the house, and having advised him to undress himself and go to bed, he carried him a little warm wine to drink, and thus this unfortunate affair ended without any evil consequences.

Not long after this, Tommy was to pay a visit to his parents, and Harry was to accompany him. They no sooner arrived at Mr. Merton's than they found a crowded assembly to receive them. It is impossible to describe the many flattering encomiums that were passed upon Tommy, not even his hair or his teeth passed without some compliment, while nobody took the least notice of Harry, except Mr. Merton, who treated him in the most tender and affectionate manner.



Among the company, however, was an amiable young lady, Miss Simmons, who advanced towards Harry with the greatest affability, and en-

tered into conversation with him. This young lady had the misfortune to lose her father and mother in her infancy, and was then under the care of an uncle, who brought her up in such a manner as contributed to inform her mind, without suffering her to acquire those fashionable talents which are so pernicious to the fair of the rising generation.

This young lady, whose character was singularly benevolent, addressed Harry in such a manner as set him perfectly at his ease. He possessed such a natural politeness and good nature as is infinitely preferable to all the artificial graces of society. It was for these reasons, that Miss Simmons, who though much older and more improved than Harry was highly pleased with his conversation, and thought it preferable to any thing of the kind she had met among the number of smart young gentlemen with whom she had conversed at Mr. Merton's house.

At dinner time, when Harry saw so many fine gentlemen and ladies, so many powdered servants to stand behind them, and such a multitude of dishes, he could not help envying the condition

of his father's labourers, who, when they find themselves hungry, sit perfectly at ease under an hedge, and make a hearty meal, without table cloth, plates, or compliments.

Tommy never opened his mouth but his words were caught by the whole company, who considered them as so many marks of the most brilliant wit, while little or no notice was taken of Harry.

The time was passed in those fashionable amusements, which tend only to corrupt the morals of youth, and had such an influence on the mind of Tommy, that he began almost to hate the name of Mr. Barlow, and no longer paid any respect to his friend Harry, who received very little satisfaction from this visit, except in his Conversation with Miss Simmons.

One day, a bull was to be baited in the neighbourhood, when Tommy, and all his gay and flighty companions, stole away to see it, and Harry reluctantly followed them at a distance.

While this inhuman spectacle was going forward, a poor half naked black came to them, and humbly implored their charity. Finding he could get nothing from them he approached the place where Harry stood, holding out the remains of his

tattered hat. Harry put his hand in his pocket, and gave him the only sixpence he had.

The dogs now attacked the bull with such fury that the animal became mad and outrageous; he killed two of the dogs presently, and soon after snapped the rope that held him. It is impossible to describe the terror and confusion that followed. Those who had but just before been rejoicing in the torments of the poor animal, now fled with precipitation, and were pursued by the enraged bull, who trampled over some, gored others, and thus took vengeance for the injuries he had received.

The furious animal, then changing its course, ran towards the spot where Tommy and his associates stood, and put them to flight: but the bull was too swift for them, and Tommy stumbling and falling to the ground, lay directly in the way of his pursuing enemy. Harry had all this time kept his ground, but now seeing his friend in danger, he determined to attempt his rescue. With a courage and presence of mind above his years, he caught upon a prong, which had been dropped by one of the fugitives, and at the very instant the

bull was stooping to revenge himself on the defenceless Tommy, he gave him a deep wound in the flank. The animal turned round, and it is probable, that his life would have paid for the salvation of his friend, had not the generous black, to whom he had just before given sixpence, instantly fled to his assistance. With a large stick he had in his hand, he gave the bull so violent a blow as called off his attention from Harry. He instantly turned round to his new enemy, who dexterously shifted from him, and got hold of his tail, by which he held fast, and so belaboured the bull with his stick, that he was at last obliged to lie down, when they threw a rope over his horns, and fastened him to a tree.

While these matters were transacting, Mr. Merton had sent out his servants to see after the young gentlemen. They flew to the spot where their young master lay, who, though he had not received any injury, was half dead with fear and terror. As soon as Harry saw that Tommy was safe in the hands of his servants, he asked the black to go along with him, but he took the road which led to his father's house, instead of returning to Mr. Merton's.

CHAP. VIII.

MRS. Merton was looking out at the window, when she saw her son in the arms of one of the servants who was bringing him home. Judge what were the feelings of so fond a mother! she fainted at the sight, and was some time before she recovered.

At this instant Mr. Barlow, who knew nothing of what had passed, arrived at Mr. Merton's where he was received by that Gentleman with every mark of hospitality. Mr. Merton related to him every thing that had passed, and concluded with lamenting how much unlike his son was to the amiable little Harry. A long and interesting discourse took place between the two gentlemen; when Mr. Barlow prevailed on Mr. Merton to believe, that, in a little time, his son Tommy might be brought to forget all his pride, and become an amiable young gentleman.

This conversation being ended, Mr. Merton conducted Mr. Barlow into another room, and introduced him to the company, who received him with great politeness, and particularly Mrs. Mer-

ton, who now began to think that her conduct to her son was not entirely prudent.

Tommy, who was so lately the idol of this flattering circle appeared to be much humbled.--- He indeed approached Mr. Barlow with every appearance of modesty and gratitude, and answered all his questions in the most respectful manner; but he could not conceal that dejection of mind which evidently appeared on his countenance.--- Mr. Barlow was too sensible a man not to see these marks of contrition, and drew from them the most pleasing omens.

The company now broke up for the evening. The next day Tommy rose before his father and mother, and, as his mind was much impressed with the story read by Miss Simmons the preceding evening, in which he had described the wonderful exploits of some Arabian horsemen, he begged his little horse might be saddled for him.

He accordingly put on his boots, and ordered William to attend him. This servant had been accustomed to humour him in whatever he took into his head, and indeed he might have endangered the loss of his place had he shewn the least reluctance to obey his commands. Mrs. Merton

had strictly forbidden her son ever to ride with spurs, and had ordered all the servants never to suffer him to put on those dangerous implements. However, as he dared not to ask for spurs, he went to one of the maids, and got from her two large pins, which he very ingeniously stuck into his boots, and then mounted his horse.

He had not ridden far, before he gave his horse a very sharp prick with his pins. The animal set off with him at full gallop, and William knew not whether this sudden start was from this accident or design. Seeing, however, that the horse galloped over the roughest part of the common, while Tommy used all his efforts to stop him, he thought it prudent to endeavour to overtake him, and therefore pursued him with all possible speed. The poney hearing another horse behind him, rather encreased his pace; so that while Tommy was carried over the common with such violent speed, William was in vain pursuing him.

The young gentleman maintained his seat admirably well, but he began seriously to reflect on his own ungovernable ambition, and would have been happy to exchange his high-mettled steed for

the dronest ass in England. The race continued without any appearance of abatement, when the poney turned short on a sudden, upon an attempt of his master to stop him, and rushed into a quagmire. This stopped him for a moment, and gave Tommy an opportunity of slipping off his back into a soft bed of mire.

The servant had now time to get up to Tommy, and rescue him from his disagreeable situation, where he had received no other damage than that of daubing his cloaths. The servant was very much frightened at the situation of his young master while the horse was running away with him; but finding he had received no injury, he left Tommy to walk home on foot, while he went in pursuit of the poney.

Tommy, in the mean time, walked pensively along the common, thinking of the different accidents he had encountered. While his mind was thus employed, a poor and ragged figure made his appearance. He was a poor cobbler, out of employ, and was leading two children, and carried a third in his arms. Tommy immediately took notice of him, which the poor man seeing, pulled off his hat, and begged his charity. Our little

gentleman, after some conversation with him, put his hand into his pocket, and gave him a shilling to buy himself and his children some bread. The poor man gratefully thanked him, and pursued his journey.

Tommy had not proceeded a great way before he met with another adventure. A flock of sheep was running with all possible speed from the pursuit of a large dog. As he was an enemy to all cruelty, he endeavoured to drive the dog from his prey. The dog, however, after growling and shewing his teeth, at last seized upon the skirt of Tommy's coat, shaking it with every appearance of rage; but the youth shewed no marks of fear, only endeavouring to disengage himself from his enemy.

The honest man whom he had just relieved ran to his assistance, and laid the dog sprawling on the ground with a stick, which he snatch'd out of the hedge. Tommy thanked his deliverer, and desired him to attend him to his father's house, where he and his children should receive every refreshment.

On the servant telling Mr. Merton, that the poney had run away with Tommy, he surveyed

him attentively, and soon found out the cause. He therefore desired him for the future to be more cautious, and they then returned to the house, when Mr. Merton gave orders that proper nourishment might be administered to the poor man and his children, whom Tommy had brought home with him, and then dismissed them with a valuable present.

After dinner, a very interesting conversation took place between Mr. Barlow and his pupil Tommy, when Mr. Barlow told him, that to be sensible of his fault, was half way to a reformation, and therefore begged that he would open his mind upon the least reserve.

Encouraged by this kind declaration, Tommy thus proceeded. "Since I have been at home, Sir, I have been surrounded by a number of fine young gentlemen and ladies, who because their parents are rich, thought they had a right to despise every one who was poor. Indeed as they told me every thing centered in politeness, I imitated them on all occasions, and soon became as bad as themselves. They were always laughing at poor Harry Sandford, and at last brought me to slight his company."

"I am very sorry for that, replied Mr. Barlow, because I am sure he loves you; but I will inform him, that you have got other acquaintance, and do not wish him to interrupt you in future."

Tommy replied with tears in his eyes. "I did not think, Sir, you could be so cruel! I love him better than all the company I have lately seen, and I shall never be more happy till he forgives all my past unfriendly behaviour." Tommy then went on to acquaint Mr. Barlow with all the ill treatment he had been guilty of to his friend Harry, and concluded with asking, if he thought it possible that Harry would ever forgive him.

Our little gentleman here burst into a flood of tears, and Mr. Barlow, after having suffered him to ease his mind that way, told him he must ask Harry's pardon. Tommy consented, and begged that Mr. Barlow would bring him to their house. To this the reverend gentleman objected, saying it was his place to go to Harry, and not Harry to come to him.

Tommy again burst into tears, and begged Mr. Barlow would not leave him. He promised to go directly, and beg Harry's forgiveness. As his preceptor was now sensible of his contrition, he

said he would go to young Sandford, and hear what he thought of the meeting.

He accordingly set out for Mr. Sandford's on foot, for he would not accept of the carriage Mr. Merton offered him, nor even of any servant to attend him. He found Harry driving the team in the field, whistling, singing and more happy than a prince. He no sooner saw Mr. Barlow, than he stopped his team, and ran to him with every expression of joy in his countenance.

Mr. Barlow told him, that he was sorry to hear of the difference that had happened between him and Tommy, and desired that he would acquaint him with every particular. Harry hereupon told him the whole of the transaction, omitting only, out of modesty, the circumstance of saving Tommy's life. On Mr Barlow's asking him why he did not mention that matter, he replied, he would have done as much for any one else, and therefore could not do less for his little friend, whom he loved.

Mr Barlow hereupon returned to Mr Merton's house, and in the presence of Tommy related the whole of the conversation between him and Harry. Our little gentleman, who had attentively listened

to all his preceptor had said, for some time hung down his head in silence. At last, in a faint voice, he owned, that he was become unworthy of the affection of his real friends; but he hoped, that his father and Mr Barlow would not give him up entirely; and that, would he be ever guilty of the same faults again he would never more entreat for their favour and forgiveness. He had no sooner uttered these words, than he silently withdrew from the presence of his father and preceptor.

Mr Merton was at a loss to guess what could be the motive of this abrupt departure, and complained to Mr Barlow, that his son appeared to him like a weathercock, which changes its position with every varying gust of wind.

Tommy presently returned, but in a very different kind of dress, for he had destroyed every appearance of finery. His mother, seeing him thus strangely altered, could not help exclaiming, "What has the boy been doing to himself! Why Tommy, I declare you look more like a country clown than like a young gentleman of fortune."

To this observation of Mrs Merton, who still considered the parade of grandeur as the summit of all human happiness, Tommy gravely replied,

that he was then only what he ought always to have been ; and that, had he been accustomed to that dress, he should never have treated his dear friend Harry in so shameful a manner.

Mr Merton and Mr Barlow could hardly keep their countenance at this solemn speech, which Tommy delivered with uncommon gravity. However, they endeavoured to put on a serious countenance, and advised him to persevere in so commendable a resolution. As the night was pretty far advanced, and the gentleman did not wish to tire Tommy with too many moral reflections at one time, they retired to their different chambers.

CHAP. IX.

TOMMY rose early the next morning, and dressed himself in his new habit of simplicity ; and, after they had all breakfasted together, he begged of Mr Barlow to go with him to Harry Sandford's. When they drew near to the house, Tommy saw at some distance his friend, who was

driving his father's sheep home. At this sight, he took to his heels, and ran so hastily to meet Harry, that he was quite out of breath when he reached him. Harry met him with open arms, and a reconciliation immediately took place.

Dinner being ready, Tommy sat down in company with Mrs Sandford, a venerable, decent middle aged woman, her two daughters, plain, modest, healthy looking girls, a little older than Harry, who was also one of the company. Though the table was not covered with dainties, yet the provisions were of the best kind, plenty in quantity, but sparing in variety. Every thing was hot and well dressed, and neatness was visible in every part of the rustic banquet.

Our young gentleman was now embarked in a new scene of life, very different from that he had been hitherto engaged in. He supped heartily that night on the rustic fare he met with, went to bed early, and slept soundly. When Harry called him at five the next morning, according to agreement the over night, he found some difficulty in complying with the summons; but, when he recollected that his word and honour were at stake, he immediately jumped out of bed, dressed himself,

and accompanied Harry in all his rustic employments.

In a short time, Tommy became perfectly reconciled to his new mode of life, though it appeared a little awkward to him at first. The encrease of exercise greatly contributed to improve his health and strength, and so much assisted his appetite, that the rustic food of farmer Sandford's table appeared to him more pleasing than all the luxuries he met with at home. From being accustomed to view scenes of distress, his heart began to be more sensible of the tender feelings of humanity; and from the observations he had daily occasion to make, he learned to know of what utility the labourer was to the community. Mr. Barlow paid him frequent visits, and pointed out every thing to him that was most worthy of his notice.

The reverend gentleman one day thus addressed his little friend. "You are now, Tommy, learning the practice of those virtues which have rendered the sages of antiquity so conspicuous. It is not by finery, indolence, or the gratification of our appetites, that we must expect to establish our reputation in the world; for no man could ever

derive the abilities of commanding armies in the field, or acting as a good legislator at home, who had been nursed in the lap of Indolence and Luxury. When the Roman people were pushed hard by their enemies, and the greatest generals



were necessary to check them, it was not in the circles of the gay, elegant and dissipated, nor at banquets, nor in gilded palaces, that they sought such commanders; they visited the poor and homely cottage, such as your late companions would view with the utmost contempt. But it was in such a situation they found Cincinnatus,

whose virtues and abilities rendered him superior to the rest of his fellow citizens ; they found him ploughing his field, and driving his oxen himself. Though this great man had passed his youth in the study of civil government and the use of arms, though he had frequently taught the Roman legions to triumph over their enemies ; yet, when his country had no more commands on his service, he withdrew from the bustle of affairs, and, in a retired and humble situation, owed his subsistence to his labour. Tell me, my little friend, since chance seems to have more the direction of human affairs than merit, would you rather appear to the world in an elevated station, and as unworthy of the advantages you enjoy ; or, in an humble condition, be esteemed as worthy, from your virtues and abilities, of the most exalted places of honour and trust."

In the course of the evenings, Tommy frequently conversed with the negro, and asked him many questions concerning his own country. The young gentleman being one night particularly inquisitive, the black man gave him the following history of himself.

" A town on the river Gambia in Africa, (said

he) gave me birth. In this part of the world where I now am, people look upon me as a being of a different species; and the inhabitants of my country look with equal surprise on the white Europeans. I have seen men in some parts of the world of a yellow hue, in other parts the copper colour prevailed, and each have considered the rest as beings beneath them.

“ In my own country; there is a difference, not only in the colour of men; but also in a variety of other circumstances. In England, for a great part of the year, you are chilled with frosts and snows, and sometimes do not see the all-cheering rays of the sun for whole days together. It is the contrary with us, for the sun never leaves us, and pours on us his most scorching influence. Our days and nights are equal, and we are consequently strangers to that diversity of seasons you experience in this climate. Snow, frost, and ice, are unknown to us, a perpetual verdure prevails, and every season of the year produces us fruits. There are indeed, some months in the year, when we are scorched with intolerable heat, in those seasons vegetation appears to be destroyed, the rivers

fail in their salutary streams, and men and animals are parched with thirst.

“ In this country, I mean the country I am now in, however melancholy may be the truth, you seem to have more to fear from each other, than from the savage inhabitants of the woods. Your houses are built so as to defy the utmost fury of winds and weather, and which seem almost to resist the efforts of time. With us, reeds twisted together, and cemented with slime or mud, form our contented though humble dwellings. Wretched as these habitations may appear to you, an African enjoys in them all the felicities of life, till you white Christians drag him from thence, and export him from his native country into foreign climes, where he is exposed to all the calamities of slavery and cruelty.

“ In your country, men seem to place their happiness in obtaining a thousand things more than nature requires, and more than they can ever make use of. Your houses are sufficiently extensive to contain a whole tribe of our people; and you so load yourselves with clothes that your limbs cannot properly perform their offices. Your tables at meal times are covered with a profusion of vic-

tuals sufficient to serve a whole village, and I have frequently seen a poor wretch perishing with hunger at the gates of a rich man, while he was eating his dinner, composed of many sumptuous dishes, without the least appetite for any."

"In the cool of the evening, we enjoyed ourselves under the wide spreading palm-trees, and



every traveller that chanced to pass through our village, found a home at every house he came to, No door was shut against him, no saucy, insolent, and pampered servant disputed his admission: he

entered every house freely, was welcome to partake of what the table produced, and then pursued his journey."

Tommy had hitherto listened, in the most profound silence, to a narrative so novel to him; but now he interrupted the honest negro by asking him if his country was much invested with wild beasts.

"Yes, master, replied the black) we have every species of them, equally ferocious and dreadful.--- We have the powerful lion, who has so much strength in his paw, that he will level a man to the earth with a single blow; and his paws are armed with such claws, that no creature can resist their sharpness and violence. His roar is like that of thunder, at which the boldest hunter frequently trembles. He no sooner views his enemies, than he shakes his majestic mane, and looks round upon his host of fogs with the utmost content and indifference.

"After a little time, he begins lashing his sides with a long and ponderous tail, which is a certain emblem of his rising fury; his eyes sparkle like consuming fire, and, when he perceives that his hunters are numerous, he generally moves to-

wards them with a slow and awful step. This, however, he is not permitted long to do, for those in his rear wound him in the flank with a javelin, which makes him face about. Then commences his rage and fury, when neither a torrent of blood issuing from his wound, nor a combined number of spears opposed to him, can prevent his rushing on the man he supposes to have first wounded him. Death is the inevitable lot of his devoted enemy, should he reach him in his first spring; but it generally happens, that the hunter, who has glory and his own life at stake, avoids him by a nimble leap, when the whole troop rush on to his assistance. The rage of this furious animal then avails him but little, his strength is gradually exhausted, and his life hastily steals away through every fresh wound he receives. In the agonies of death, he bites the ground, and yields to his inevitable fate.

A gentleman now entering Mr Sandford's house about some particular business, Tommy desired the honest black to defer the remainder of his story till the gentleman's departure.

CHAP. X.

AS soon as the gentleman was gone, Tommy desired the black to proceed in his entertaining narrative, with which he instantly complied. "It is no wonder, said he, if under such a parent I learned every species of the chase. I was first taught to pursue stags and other feeble animals, and accompanied other children and young men to defend our rice fields from the depredations of the river horse. Rice being a plant that requires great moisture, our plantations are for the most part made by the sides of the rivers, where the soil being overflowed in the rainy season becomes soft and fertile. As soon as it nearly approaches perfection, we are obliged to defend it from different kinds of destructive animals, of which the principal is the river horse. It is a prodigious animal, being twice the size of your English oxen. He has four short thick legs, an enormous head, and jaws armed with prodigiously long and strong teeth, besides two prominent tusks, which make a most formidable appearance.

"Notwithstanding the strength and size of

this animal, his principal abode is in rivers, where he lives upon the produce of the waters. It is a curious though dreadful sight to behold this monstrous creature travelling along the bottom several yards below the surface, over which you are gently gliding in a boat, and can see every thing that passes in the transparent mirror beneath you. The boatman always endeavours to get out of his way ; for so strong is this animal, that he can upset a tolerably large bark, or tear out a plank with his enormous fangs. During the day, he generally conceals himself in the water, and preys on the inhabitants of that element ; but when the gloom of night approaches, he quits the river, and entering the fields, commits depredations on the standing corn, which he would totally destroy, were not people set to watch his motions, and drive him away by their shouts and clamours.

“ Among these parties I have frequently made one, and have watched several successive nights. At length, one of our most enterprising youths proposed that we should boldly attack this enemy, and punish him for his depredations. For this purpose, we concealed ourselves in proper places, and when we saw him issue from the water, and

had suffered him to advance some way into the plantation, we rushed from our concealment, and endeavoured to intercept his return. This monster was so sensible of his own strength, that he slowly retreated, snarling horribly, and gnashing his dreadful tusks. Our darts and arrows had no power on his invulnerable sides, every weapon rebounding as from a wall, or glancing aside without making the least wound.

“ One of our boldest youths then unguardedly approached him, and endeavoured to wound him at a shorter distance; but the enraged animal, running at him with a degree of swiftness he was not before supposed to possess, he seized him, ripped up his body with his tusk, and left him dead upon the spot. His companions instantly fled with terror, and every one but myself declined the dangerous conflict. Inflamed with grief and rage for the loss of my comrade, I resolved, at the hazard of my life, to attempt to revenge his death. As I found his hide was impenetrable to any weapon, I selected one of my sharpest arrows, fitted it to my bow-string, and with a cool and steady aim, while the animal was hastening to the borders of the river, I hit him

so directly in the ball of one of his enormous eyes, that the point penetrated to his brain, when he fell to the ground, with a dismal groan, and instantly expired.

“ Though there was in fact nothing very great in this action, it was deemed by every one as the noblest act of heroism, and from that time I was regarded as the first among the youths of our hamlet. I have laid many a tiger dead at my feet: I have compelled the lion, the terror of the woods, and the fiercest of all animals, to yield to my con-



rage, and many an elephant has been obliged to flee from me; but I do not remember that I ever

achieved an action so glorious as what you have just now performed.

Tommy's curiosity was much gratified with the recital of these adventures, and, as his knowledge encreased, so his generous heart expanded. He reflected on his former prejudices with shame and contempt, began to consider all mankind as his equals, and ceased to make those foolish distinctions which pride and vanity had before suggested to his mind. This happy change in his sentiments made him respected by every one in Mrs. Sandford's family, and Harry and Tommy loved each other more than ever.

Our young gentleman was one day surprised by an unexpected visit from his father. The meeting was equally affectionate on both sides, for Tommy was become another boy. His father told him, he was come to take him back to his own house, having heard such an account of his present behaviour, that all his former errors were forgiven, and that he began to glory in owning him as his son.

Farmer Sandford was at this instant returning from the fields, and very respectfully invited Mr. Merton to walk in, when the latter called the for-

mer aside, as if he had something to say to him in private. When they were alone, Mr. Merton thanked the farmer for the infinite services he and his family had been of to his son, in working so happy a reformation. He then pulled out a pocket-book, and begged Mr. Sandford would accept of it and its contents. The farmer taking the book and looking into it, found it contained bank notes of great value. He therefore shut it up again, and politely returned it to Mr. Merton, begging to be excused the acceptance of it.



Mr. Merton here reminded Mr. Sandford of the state of his family ; his daughters unprovided for,

his amiable son brought up to labour, and himself hastening to old age, which required a respite from the toils and fatigues of life.

“ I return you a thousand thanks, (replied the farmer) but all our family, time immemorial, have been brought up to industry, and to live by the labour of our hands. I want for neither victuals nor work, good firing, cloaths, a warm house; a little to give to the poor, and, between you and I, perhaps I have something by me to give to my children, to put them into the world, if they behave well. I shall never forget the kind offer you have made me, but hope you will consent to leave us in the condition in which you at present find us.”

As soon as dinner was over, the cloth was removed, and the silver mug, the only article of luxury in his house, had been two or three times replenished, when little Harry Sandford came running in, crying, “ Father! father! here is the sweetest team of horses, all of a size and colour, with new harness, and make the finest figure I ever saw in my life. They are stopped at our door, and the man says he has orders to deliver them to you.”

Farmer Sandford was then relating the history of the ploughing match, where he won the silver mug they were drinking out of; but this account of his son had such an effect on him, that he started up immediately, and, after making an apology to Mr Merton, ran out to see what sort of horses these were.

On his return, surprised as well as his son, "Mr. Merton, (said he) I suppose these horses are a new purchase, and that you want to have my opinion of them.

Mr. Merton replied, that such as they were, they were at his service. "I cannot think, (said he) after the singular favours I have received from your family, you will so far displease me as to refuse this mark of my gratitude." Mr. Sandford was lost in astonishment, and knew not what answer to make. At length, however, recovering himself, he was going to make the politest refusal he could think of, when Tommy coming in, took Mr. Sandford by the hand, and begged he would not be so unkind as to refuse his father and himself the first favour they had ever asked him to grant. Mr. Sandford's delicacy was now quite conquered, and he at last consented to take the

horses, and they were accordingly led into his stables.

Mr. Merton, having expressed every mark of tenderness and affection to this worthy family, desired his son to accompany him home. Tommy arose, and with the sincerest gratitude and affection, took leave of his friend Harry, and of all the rest of the family. "It will not be long before I shall see you again, (said he to Harry) for to your example I owe the little good I have to boast of. You have made me sensible, how much better it is to be useful than to be rich or fine, and that it is more amiable to be good than great.

FINIS.



